

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: John Ward Dwelling Inventory Number: WI-678
Address: 501 Christopher Street Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Salisbury Zip Code: 21801 County: Wicomico
USGS Quadrangle(s): Salisbury, Delmar
Property Owner: Frances J. McCrorey, et al. Tax Account ID Number: 058112
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 85 Tax Map Number: 38
Project: Shore Transit Operating and Administrative Facility Agency: Maryland Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Connie Torbeck/Emma Young Date Prepared: 7/31/2008
Documentation is presented in: Wicomico County Land Records, Salisbury, Maryland.
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes
Visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The John Ward Property, located at 501 Christopher Street, Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland, consists of a circa-1885 I-house situated on an approximately 0.5-acre lot on the east side of Christopher Street. A circa-1930 shed, a circa-1970 garage, and a circa-1980 metal and frame shed are also located on the property. A gravel lane leads east from Christopher Street and provides access to the dwelling and building cluster that comprises the property.

Dwelling-Circa 1885

The John Ward dwelling is a two-and-one-half-story, circa-1885, frame I-house. The symmetrical façade faces west towards Christopher Street. The main block is one room deep and two rooms wide. A rear ell, which originally served as a kitchen, extends from the east (rear) elevation, forming a T-plan. A service porch on the south elevation of the ell was enclosed and converted to a kitchen and bathroom. A living room addition was made to the north side of the ell circa 1974 (personal communication, Joan McCrorey, July 9, 2008). A shed-roof service porch abuts the rear/east elevation of the ell, and a shallow pitched shed-roofed entrance porch adjoins the service porch at its south elevation. The three-quarter width front porch, which consists of a replacement wood floor, has been screened in.

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MHT Comments:

Jim Faulkner ✓
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

8/13/08

Date

8/19/08

Date

200802644

The main block of the house rests on a rock-faced concrete block foundation. The living room addition sits on a plain-faced concrete block foundation, while the kitchen and service porch are supported by poured concrete foundations. An aluminum skirt conceals the foundation of the entrance porch. According to the current owner, the exterior walls of the dwelling were clad entirely with vinyl siding circa-1970 (personal communication, Joan McCorey, July 9, 2008). The cross-gabled roof of the main block is clad with asphalt shingles, as are the shed roofs of the kitchen, living room, service porch, and entrance porch wings. All soffits and rake boards, except those located on the screened-in front porch, are clad with vinyl. An interior brick chimney straddles the roof near the east elevation of the rear ell.

Fenestration in the main block consists of one-over-one light, double-hung, wood-sash windows with aluminum or vinyl storms. All windows in the main block, except the first story windows of the façade, the attic level windows, and the second story windows in the rear/east elevation, are flanked by inoperable louvered, aluminum shutters.

The façade is three-bays wide with a window-door-window configuration in the first story, three symmetrically placed windows in the second story, and a single window in the center gable. The main entrance, consisting of a one-light-over-six-panel door, is sheltered by a screened-in front porch.

The south elevation includes the south walls of the screened-in porch, the main block, the rear ell, the former service porch/kitchen, and the rear entrance porch. The south elevation of the main block consists of a two-story projecting bay capped by a gable. The symmetrical fenestration in the second story of the rear ell are flanked by inoperable louvered, aluminum shutters and capped with aluminum awnings. The former service porch/kitchen is three-bays wide, with a three-light-over-three-panel, wood door flanked by vinyl awning-sash windows that are sheltered by aluminum awnings. The secondary entrance is accessed by a concrete stoop with brick steps and a wooden hand rail. The stoop is sheltered by an aluminum awning resting on scrolled metal supports. The south elevation of the rear entrance porch is lit by two one-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash windows.

The rear/east elevation includes the rear elevations of the main block and rear ell. The ell extends eastward from the approximate center of the main block. The second story of the rear elevation of the main block includes a one-over-one, double-hung sash window in either side of the ell. The first story of the ell is obscured by the rear service porch addition, and no openings exist in the second story. A pair of two-over-one light, wood-sash windows is centered in the gable of the ell. The east elevation of the former service porch/kitchen is largely obscured by the rear entrance porch addition. The entrance porch addition is accessed by an aluminum storm door that is flanked by a one-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash window. A rear service porch addition abuts the north wall of the rear entrance porch addition. This space is lit by a pair of vinyl jalousie windows. The east elevation of the living room addition includes a single one-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash window capped by an aluminum awning.

The north elevation of the main block includes a one-over-one light, double-hung, wood-sash window in each story. The first- and second-story windows are covered by aluminum storms and flanked by louvered aluminum shutters. The first story of the rear ell is obscured by the living room addition. The second story is lit by a pair of one-over-one light, double-hung, wood-sash windows with aluminum storms and inoperable louvered, aluminum shutters. The north elevation of the shed-roofed living room addition is lit by tripartite one-over-one light, double-hung, vinyl-sash windows flanked by inoperable louvered, aluminum shutters.

Overall, the dwelling, which currently in 2008 functions as a residential property, is in good condition.

Shed-Circa 1930

A circa-1930 frame shed is located to the northeast of the dwelling. The single-bay shed is rectangular in plan. The side-gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles, and rafter tails are exposed beneath the eaves. The exterior walls including the vehicle access doorway, are covered with particle board, and the gables are clad with weatherboard siding. A four-panel, wood, human-scale door

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centered in the south elevation of the shed. The door is flanked by one-over-one light, vinyl-sash windows and is accessed by a set of concrete steps. The north elevation is covered by heavy foliage, and no openings are visible. The east elevation has no openings, and is abutted by a shed-roof lean-to. The lean-to has a standing-seam metal roof supported by wood posts. A section of wood fencing encloses the south side of the lean-to.

The shed no longer retains its original function and is in poor condition.

Post-1958 Building

A circa-1970, one-and-one-half-story, frame garage is located to the southeast of the dwelling. This garage was constructed by William McCrorey after he purchased the property in 1960 (personal communication, Joan McCrorey, July 9, 2008).

A circa-1980, side-gable post-frame shed is situated to the southeast of the circa-1970 garage.

Landscape Features

The property is located on the east side of Christopher Street, which is partially unpaved. The property is bounded by a residential neighborhood to the west, on the opposite side of Christopher Street. A large industrial property, the former Chris-Craft Plant (WI-677) is located to the southeast, and an area of vacant land is located to the northeast. The property is accessed by a gravel lane that curves off of Christopher Street and leads to the circa-1970 garage on the south side of the house. A narrow strip of lawn, landscaped with a hedgerow, separates the property from Christopher Street. A cluster of bushes located on the south side of the driveway separates the house from an expansive area of lawn, which is bordered by a tree line on the south. The property is dotted with mature trees, and a wooded area is located directly to the rear of the shed and garage.

Historical Narrative:

Property History:

Documentary research indicates that the dwelling at 501 Christopher Street was built circa 1885 by John Ward.

The property began as a larger tract that was conveyed to Robert Humphreys by the last will and testament of his mother, Elizabeth Humphreys. The dwelling structure does not appear on Martenet's 1865 Atlas or Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson's 1877 Atlas; however, Thomas Humphreys, who predeceased his wife, Elizabeth, is shown as the property owner on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson 1877 Atlas of Wicomico-Somerset-Worcester Counties. Robert Humphreys conveyed the property, containing 175.48 acres, to John William Ward for \$5,250 on October, 20, 1884 (WCDB 13:319).

The property remained under the ownership of John Ward for nearly 30 years, when 4.8 acres were subdivided and sold to Arthur Hammond on November 26, 1913 for the nominal amount of \$10 (WCDB 88:477). Arthur Hammond retained the property until 1919 when it was sold to Luella Lewis, again for \$10 (WCDB 113:397). Lewis owned the parcel for only a short period of time, and conveyed the 4.89-acre property to John W. and Nellie Green on March 2, 1920 (WCDB 117:270).

In 1930, John Green, a widower, sold a 5.5-acre parcel to George A. and Eva Greenslade (WCDB 164:17). Eva Greenslade predeceased her husband, George. Upon the death of George Greenslade, the property was devised to Carolina and Georgianna Greenslade (Wicomico County Orphans Court, Liber 3, Folio 78). Carolina and Georgianna Greenslade retained the property for an additional six years, after which, the property was sold to George W. and Elizabeth B. Thomas on May 1, 1953 (WCDB 349:314).

William R. and Frances McCrorey purchased the property for \$10 on September 27, 1960 (WCDB 506:269). Upon the death of

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Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

William McCrorey in 1990, the property was conveyed solely to his wife, Frances Joan McCrorey, for the term of her natural life, and the remainder therein to William R. McCrorey III and Robert F. McCrorey (WCDB 1807:484). The dwelling is currently owned and occupied by Frances McCrorey.

I-house Architectural Style:

The circa-1885 dwelling on the John Ward property can be characterized as a cross-gable I-house. From approximately 1870 through 1925, the cross-gable I-house was one of the most common residential building types constructed throughout Maryland. I-houses, which are two stories in height and one room deep, descend from traditional British folk forms and are common in the United States, most notably in the Tidewater South prior to circa 1890. However, the popularity of the form continued into the twentieth century, and examples are found throughout the eastern half of the country. Varying patterns of porches, chimneys, and rear extensions are commonly seen in examples dating after circa 1890 (McAlester and McAlester 1998: 96).

Significance Evaluation:

The John Ward Property, located at 501 Christopher Street, Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland, is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the National Register of Historic Places guidelines established by the National Park Service, the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, site, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. that are associated with lives of significant persons in our past;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (National Park Service 1997).

The John Ward Property is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The property is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. While the property once included additional land and a barn that was demolished by the current owner, the property does not retain sufficient evidence of agricultural use to be eligible in the area of agriculture.

The John Ward Property is not eligible under Criterion B because it has no known association with the lives of individuals of historical importance.

The John Ward Property is not eligible under Criterion C because the dwelling does not possess the architectural distinctiveness necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The I-house is a common form found throughout Maryland and Wicomico County. While the dwelling retains its original one-room-deep I-house form, alterations and additions have diminished the integrity of the property. The original service porch has been enclosed and remodeled as a kitchen and bathroom, and additions have been made to the north and east elevations of the rear ell. The original sections of the dwelling, as well as the additions, are clad with vinyl siding, obscuring the original wood siding and other architectural features such as soffits and cornices. In addition, aluminum shutters and awnings have been added to the windows. Therefore, the John Ward Dwelling is not a notable or representative example of its type, period, or method of construction.

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The property was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of the architectural survey and evaluation.

The John Ward Property does not retain a high level of integrity from the period of construction (circa 1885). While the property retains integrity of location, the setting of the property has been altered by neighboring industrial and residential development. The original wood siding, cornices, window surrounds, and other features have been obscured by vinyl siding, resulting in a loss of integrity of materials and workmanship. The enclosure of the original service porch and appending of additions to the north and east elevations of the rear ell has compromised the integrity of design. The circa-1930 shed has also lost its integrity of materials, with the addition of modern windows and particle-board siding. A barn was formerly located on the property and was demolished after 1960 by the current owners. Therefore, the property does not convey its association or feeling as a late-nineteenth-century agricultural property.

References

McAlester, Virginia and Lee.

2002 A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, New York.

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson

1877 Atlas of Wicomico-Somerset-Worcester Counties. On file at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center, Salisbury, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J.

1865 Atlas of Maryland. On file at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center, Salisbury, Maryland.

National Park Service

1997 National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. U.S. Department of the Interior: Washington, D.C.

Wicomico County Department of Land Records, Salisbury, Maryland

1884 Liber 13/Folio 319

1913 Liber 88/Folio 477

1919 Liber 113/Folio 397

1920 Liber 117/Folio 270

1930 Liber 164/Folio 17

1953 Liber 349/Folio 314

1960 Liber 506/Folio 269

2001 Liber 1807/Folio 484

Wicomico County Orphans Court, Salisbury, Maryland

1947 Orphans Court Liber 3, Folio 78

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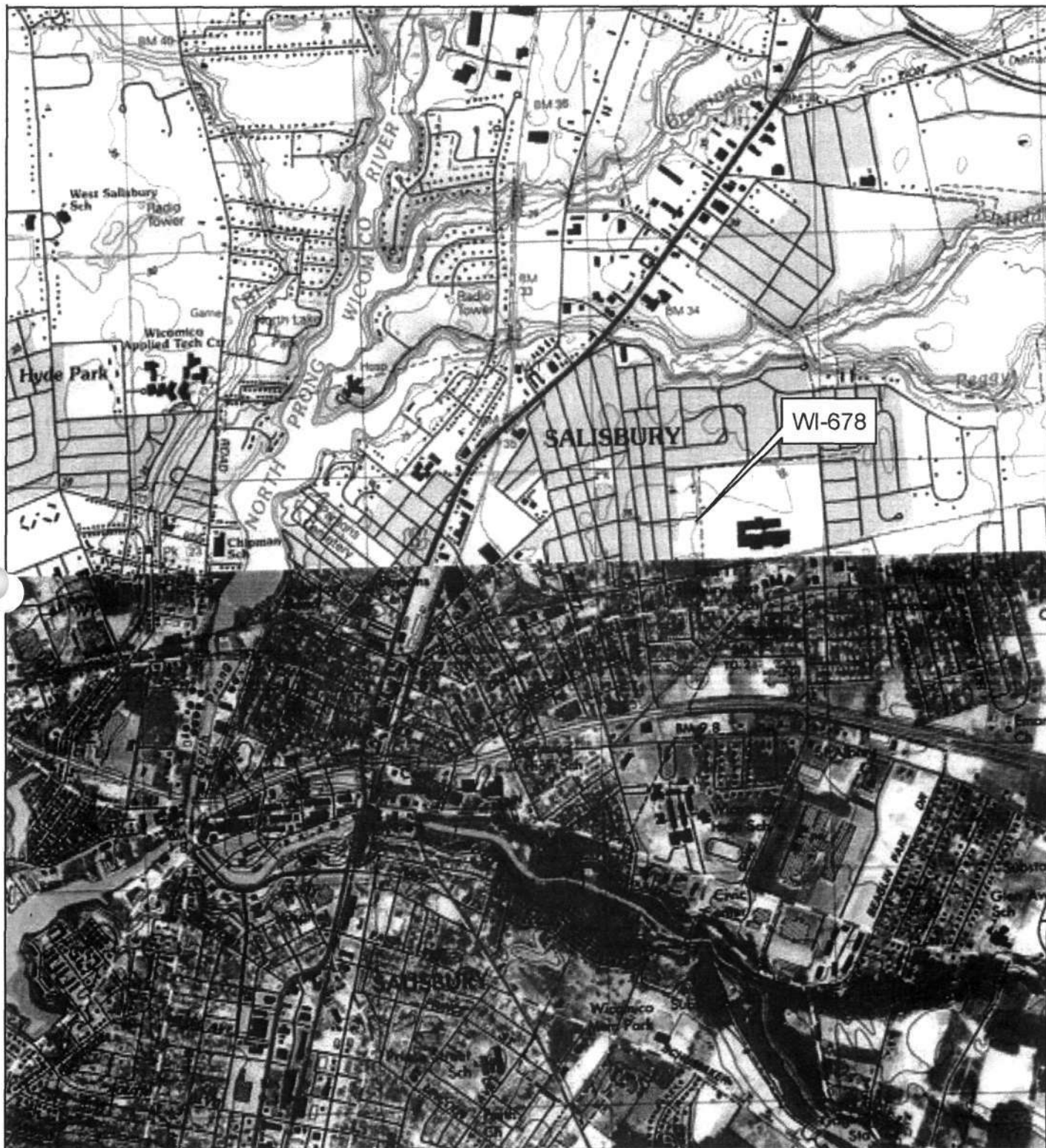
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501 Christopher Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland



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Feet



WI-678
JOHN WARD DWELLING
WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

C. TORBECK

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MD SHPO

Overview of property, looking NE

Photo # 1 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4.



W1-678
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Dwelling, west elevation, looking NE
Photo # 2 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4,



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DWELLING, west elevation, looking NE
Photo # 3 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4,



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JOHN WARD DWELLING

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Dwelling, south elevation, looking N

Photo # 4 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4,



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DWELLING, EAST elevation, looking W

Photo # 5 of 12

PS-1, RETOUCH4,



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DWELLING, NORTH Elevation, looking SE
Photo # 6 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4,



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SHED, SOUTH-WEST elevations, looking NE
Photo # 7 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4



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SHED, NORTH-EAST elevations, looking SW

Photo # 8 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4.



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GARAGE (ca. 1970), WEST elevation, looking NE

Photo # 9 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4,



W1678

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GARAGE (ca. 1970), South & East elevations, Looking NW

Photo # 10 of 12

PSL1, RETOUCH4,



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GARAGE (ca. 1970), north elevation, looking SW
Photo # 11 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4,



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MD SHPO

Post-Frame SHED (ca. 1980), west elevation, looking E

Photo # 12 of 12

PS_1, RETOUCH4